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No. 28

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AUTHORITY

Exotic ROMANCES

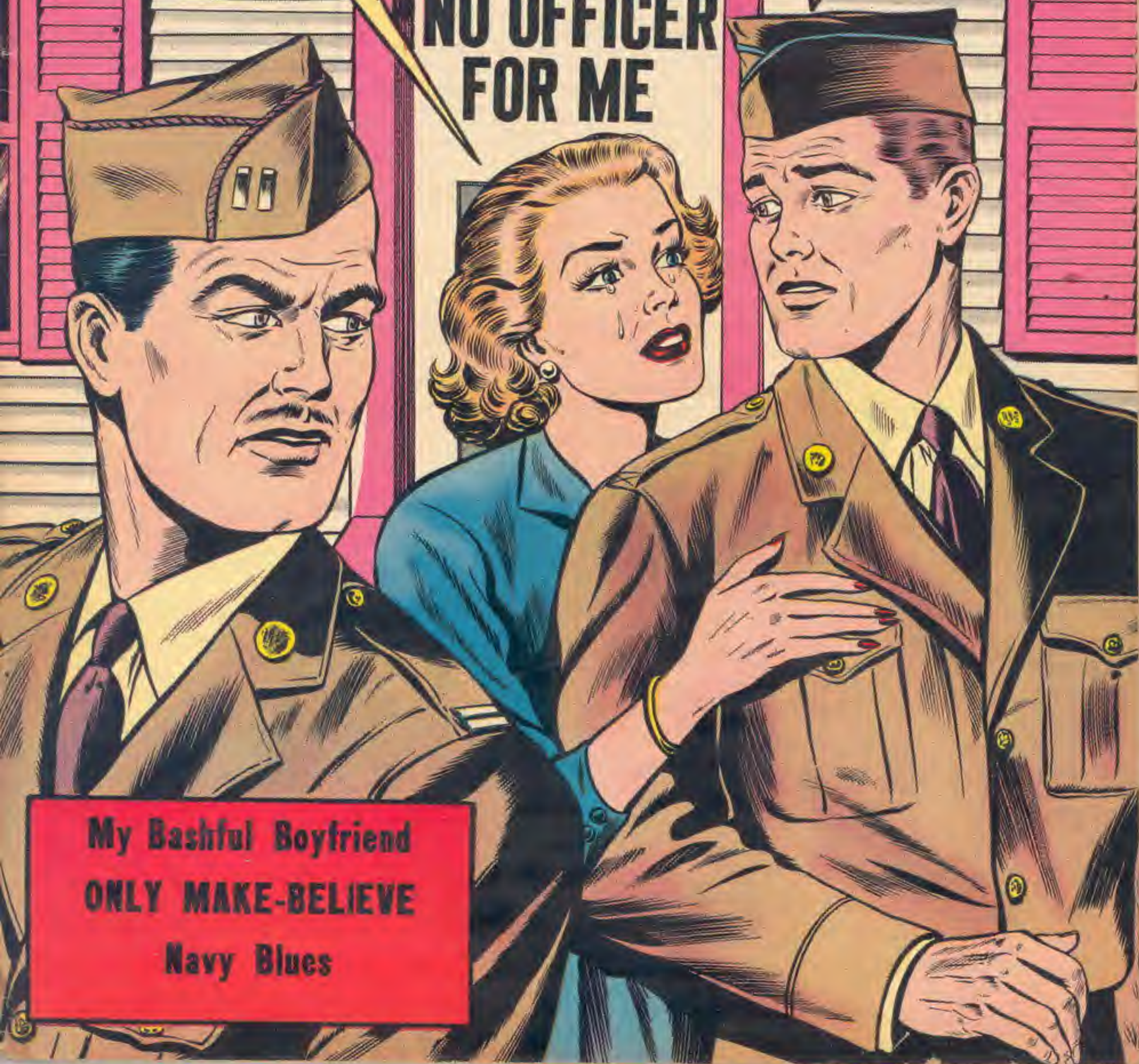
PLEASE BELIEVE ME, JOHNNY! I
WANTED TO TELL YOU ABOUT
HIM! *IT'S YOU I LOVE...*

≡SOB≡≡SOB≡

IF YOU LOVED ME,
YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE MADE A FOOL
OF ME!

See-

NO OFFICER
FOR ME



My Bashful Boyfriend
ONLY MAKE-BELIEVE
Navy Blues

**WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM**

Don't be SKINNY

Amazing New Easy Way Can Quickly Put Pounds & Inches of Firm Solid Flesh On Skinny Folks Who Are Underweight Because of Poor Appetites or Poor Eating Habits

NO CRAMMING WITH SUGARY MIXTURES, NO FISHY OILS, NO DRUGS, NO OVEREATING



DISCOVERED! THE ALL-IN-ONE CONCENTRATED MEAL OF EASIER DIGESTED, BODY-BUILDING CALORIES YOU'VE LONG HEARD WAS COMING!

If you are skinny, thin and underweight because of poor appetite or poor eating habits, try this latest discovery of modern medical science. It's called WATE-ON and anyone in normal health may quickly gain 2...5... then 10 pounds, 20 pounds and more so fast it's amazing! Not a medicine, not intended to cure anything. Instead, WATE-ON is a new HOMOGENIZED liquid that's pleasant to take as directed and is loaded with concentrated calories so prepared as to be far easier to be used by the system in building wonderful body weight, actually fortified with Vitamin D, plus blood-building Vitamin B12 and other important body nutrients. Cheeks fill out, neck and bust-line gain, arms, legs, thighs, ankles, skinny underweight figures fill out all over the body. WATE-ON also improves the appetite, gives quick energy, guards against fatigue, sleepless nights, poor endurance, low resistance. Also makes for better digestion of fats that put on weight naturally. Try WATE-ON today.

Gosh, Jean, you sure are popular since you put on those extra pounds!



Easy Weight Gains of 5...10...20 Pounds Reported

DOCTORS—

Your recommendation and approval is invited. Write for professional samples.

More Than Many a Meal in Daily Dose

Each daily dosage is as rich in calories as many a skinny person's regular meal.

For Men, Women, Boys, Girls and Convalescents

WATE-ON is entirely safe, contains no drugs, no stimulants, nothing but HOMOGENIZED concentrated food EXTRA RICH in easier to assimilate calories, fortified with other proven weight building elements.

Folks with Small Stomachs Who Quickly Fill Up and Lose Appetite at Mealtime

Many skinny people have smaller than normal stomachs. Halfway thru a meal they're full, have no more appetite. Take concentrated WATE-ON for the body building calories missed. WATE-ON works wonders putting on healthy weight



Tired of being skinny? Then simply fortify weight maintaining meals with WATE-ON... put firm flesh on face, neck, bust, arms, hips, thighs, legs and ankles. Why be skinny... why let life slip by without trying WATE-ON. If underweight is caused by disease, take WATE-ON under direction of your doctor.

SEND NO MONEY TEST AT OUR RISK

Mail the ON APPROVAL Coupon below for your generous supply of WATE-ON (indicate Liquid, Powder or Tablet form). On arrival pay \$3.00 plus C.O.D. postage on guarantee if first trial doesn't increase your weight to your satisfaction, all you need do is return empty container for full refund. Now... today... mail the Coupon. Youngsters, get mother or dad to order for you.

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY

WATE-ON CO., Dept. 751-D 230 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 1, Ill.
(In Canada WATE-ON Co., of Canada, 320 Jones Ave., Toronto 6, Ontario)

Send WATE-ON checked. I'll pay \$3.00 plus C.O.D. postage on arrival on guarantee I must be satisfied with very first supply or money back when I return empty container. (Cash orders mailed prepaid, save C.O.D. postage, same guarantee.)

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

ZONE....STATE.....

☐ Check, cash or money order enclosed

☐ Send C.O.D.

IMPORTANT!

Check One—Send Me:

☐ AMAZING NEW WATE-ON TABLETS

☐ SENSATIONAL NEW WATE-ON POWDER

☐ REGULAR WATE-ON LIQUID EMULSION

WATE-ON CO.

Dept. 751-D 230 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 1, Ill.

(In Canada, WATE-ON CO., of Canada

320 Jones Ave., Toronto 6, Ontario)

My Bashful Boy-Friend

OH, PAUL, I KNOW YOU'RE ATTRACTED TO ME! BUT WHY WON'T YOU SAY SO? YOU'RE THE ONLY BOY HERE WHO HASN'T ASKED ME FOR A DANCE!

THEY CALLED ME THE BUSIEST AND MOST POPULAR GIRL IN COLLEGE! I COULD HAVE DATES EVERY NIGHT AND BE IN EVERY ACTIVITY! THEN PAUL BLAKE CAME TO SCHOOL AND SUDDENLY NO ONE ELSE WAS IMPORTANT! I KNEW HE LIKED ME... BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED I COULDN'T MAKE HIM SAY SO! I COULDN'T EVEN GET MYSELF ASKED ON A DATE BY HIM!

AT DARLETON COLLEGE I WORKED PART TIME TO HELP ON TUITION! I WAS CASHIER AT OUR CAFE-TERIA!



HI, GINNY! HOW ABOUT SEEING THE NEW MOVIE WITH ME TONIGHT?

WISE GUY! SO THAT'S WHY YOU SHOVED AHEAD OF ME IN LINE! I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK GINNY TO GO WITH ME!



FORTY-SEVEN CENTS! AND DON'T FIGHT, BOYS! I HAVE TO STAY HOME TONIGHT AND CRAM FOR A MATH QUIZ TOMORROW! BUT THANKS, ANYHOW!

AW, RATS! IF I HAVE TO COMPETE WITH STUDIES, TOO, I'LL NEVER GET A DATE!



SSST! GINNY, GET A LOAD OF WHAT'S BEHIND ME! OOOO, IS HE A DREAM!

HMM! IF HE'S THAT GOOD, GWEN, KEEP MOVING! DON'T BLOCK THE WAY!

GWEN PAID AND MOVED RELUCTANTLY ON! SUDDENLY I WAS FACE TO FACE WITH A BOY WHO'S WARM SMILE MADE MY HEART LEAP WILDLY!



HEL-LO! YOU'RE A NEWCOMER TO OUR POOR MAN'S STORK CLUB! ADVANCE AND BE RECOGNIZED, NEWCOMER!

I'M PAUL BLAKE, JUST TRANSFERRED FROM BLENHURST ...AND YOU'RE GINNY JORDAN! I GOT ONE OF THE BOYS TO BRIEF ME!



M-MAYBE YOU'LL BE IN SOME OF MY C-CLASSES!

I HOPE SO! IF NOT, I'LL GET MY SCHEDULE CHANGED! SEE YOU AROUND, GINNY!



I CAN'T SAY I BLAME YOU, GINNY... BUT I DO HAVE TO GET TO CLASS! DO YOU MIND CHECKING ME OUT BETWEEN SIGHS?

HUH...? OH... I'M SORRY, JAN!

PAUL ATE WITH SKEETER DOWNS... AND I'M AFRAID I COULDN'T KEEP MY MIND ON LUNCH CHECKS THAT DAY!



WHADDAYUH MEAN... \$5 FOR APPLE PIE AND COFFEE?

OH! I'M SORRY!

HOLY SMOKE! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER GOT THE ROAST BEEF PLATTER WITH DESSERT FOR 15 CENTS!

WHEN MY TIME WAS UP, I RUSHED OUT AND WAYLAIK SKEETER ON HIS WAY TO CLASS!

WHO IS HE AND WHAT'S HE TAKING, SKEETER? TELL ME ALL ABOUT HIM! YOU TWO DID A LOT OF TALKING THROUGH LUNCH!

YEAH, BUT I DIDN'T FIND OUT A THING ABOUT HIM...



THE DARN GUY SPENT THE WHOLE TIME PUMPING ME ABOUT YOU!

OOOO, SKEETER, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!



THAT NIGHT NEITHER MY ROOMMATE, SALLY CARTER, NOR I GOT MUCH STUDYING DONE!

...AND WHATEVER HE'S GOT, IT'S THROWN EVERY GIRL HERE INTO A TIZZY! I GET GOOSEBUMPS MYSELF WHEN HE SMILES!

IT'S PERSONALITY, SALLY ... THE WARMEST AND MOST WONDERFUL PERSONALITY I EVER MET!



BELIEVE ME, THERE'LL BE HAIR-PULLING AT GOOD OLD DARLETON IF HE STAYS UNATTACHED FOR VERY LONG!

HE WON'T! HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO ASK ALL ABOUT ME... AND HE SAID HE HOPED WE HAD SOME OF THE SAME CLASSES!



HE'LL BE MY STEADY BOYFRIEND! I JUST KNOW HE WILL! I'VE HAD LOTS OF DATES, BUT THIS TIME I'M REALLY FALLING IN LOVE!



HEY, GINNY, AM I EARLY ENOUGH TO ASK YOU TO THE DANCE FRIDAY NIGHT?

OH...! I...I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE DANCE, HAL! I'M SORRY BUT I SORT OF HAVE A TENTATIVE DATE ALREADY!



OKAY, OKAY! YOU CAN'T WIN!

I DO HAVE A TENTATIVE DATE! AS SOON AS PAUL HEARS ABOUT THE DANCE, I KNOW HE'LL ASK ME!



HELLO, PAUL! YOU MUST HAVE REARRANGED YOUR SCHEDULE THE WAY YOU THREATENED!

'MORNING, GINNY! AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DIDN'T HAVE TO! IT CAME OUT RIGHT WITHOUT ANY EXTRA NUDGE FROM ME!

IF...IF NOBODY'S THOUGHT TO TELL YOU, WE HAVE A DANCE FRIDAY NIGHT AT GIBSON HALL, AND OF COURSE YOU'RE EXPECTED!

WHY, THANKS, BUT I HAD HEARD ABOUT IT! EVERYONE'S BEEN WONDERFUL ABOUT FITTING ME INTO WHAT'S GOING ON!

MY HEART GAVE A GREAT LEAP AS I DISCOVERED PAUL GOING INTO MY ENGLISH LIT CLASS!



I'LL PROBABLY GET THERE AND YOU SURELY WILL, SO I'LL SEE YOU, GINNY!

WHA...? WH... WHY...!

I WAS STILL STUNNED BY HIS BRUSQUE DISMISSAL WHEN HE WENT ON IN AND TOOK A SEAT BETWEEN TWO OTHER GIRLS!

WHY, HE PRACTICALLY CUT ME OFF! WHAT DID I DO THAT WAS WRONG? WHY DID HE SNUB ME LIKE THAT?



H-HE NEVER EVEN LOOKED MY WAY! THERE HE GOES WITH TH-THOSE GIRLS!

THE REST OF THAT DAY I WAS IN A DAZE! I HARDLY KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON!

...SO I SUPPOSE I'M TOO LATE, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU TO THAT DANCE, GINNY!

NO, Y-YOU'RE NOT TOO LATE, GRIFF! I'LL BE G-GLAD TO GO WITH YOU!

HOORAY! I FINALLY MADE IT!

OH-H, PAUL, WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US? I KN-KNOW AT FIRST YOU LIKED ME AND WANTED TO KNOW ME BETTER!



I HAD NO GOLDEN, STAR-STUDDED DREAMS THAT NIGHT... BECAUSE I COULD NOT SLEEP!



THE NEXT MORNING I HAD MADE UP MY MIND TO SWALLOW MY PRIDE AND FIND THE ANSWER...



SOMEHOW I GOT THROUGH THE DAY, WITH ONLY TANTA-LIZING FAR-OFF GLIMPSES OF PAUL! WHEN I RUSHED TO MY ROOM AFTER SCHOOL...





HOW DOES ONE HIDE HEART-BREAK? WHAT DO YOU SAY OR DO? I ONLY KNOW THAT SOMEHOW, IN MY DAZE, I MUST HAVE HIDDEN MY HURT!





THEN CAME THE BIG MEETING WHERE THE DETAILS OF OUR JUNIOR-SENIOR BALL WERE FINALLY SETTLED!





THE NEXT THING I KNEW...

BY UNANIMOUS CHOICE FOR AMAZON QUEEN...OUR FAVORITE GIRLFRIEND... GINNY JORDAN!

M-ME? I...I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR WHAT WAS GOING ON!



HMM! I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO ASK WHO'LL BE YOUR CHOICE FOR AMAZON KING, GINNY! YOU'LL GRAB PAUL BLAKE!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHO WON'T BE CHOSEN, SALLY!



I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF, LAYING MY HEART OUT FOR HIM AND HE SHOWED PLAINLY THAT HE DIDN'T CARE! SO THAT'S OVER!

I GUESS I'M GLAD, HONEY! ON YOU A BROKEN HEART DOESN'T LOOK GOOD... BUT GEE, YOU'D MAKE SUCH A WONDERFUL COUPLE! SIGHHHH!



THE BOYS PRACTICALLY BROKE THEIR NECKS TO WIN MY FAVOR!

CARRY YOUR BOOKS, GINNY?

GEE, YOU'RE PRETTY TODAY!

MOVIE TO-NIGHT, GINNY?



NIGHT AFTER NIGHT MY CHOICE TORMENTED ME!

SHALL I PICK POPULAR ANDY...? OR FAITHFUL GRIFF? OR SKEETER WITH HIS CRAZY GAGS?



COME ON, QUEEN GINNY! EVERYBODY'S WAITING FOR YOU TO NAME YOUR AMAZON KING!

ALL...ALL RIGHT, ANDY! I'LL CH-CHOOSE...



FOR AMAZON KING AND THE PARTNER OF MY CHOICE, I NAME... PAUL BLAKE!

GRIFF'S NAME WAS ON MY LIPS AS I STEPPED TO THE MICROPHONE... BUT MY HEART SEIZED THE REINS!



GINNY! GINNY,
YOU CHOSE
ME....!

FROM THE FIRST
DAY I SAW YOU,
PAUL!

THE
BAND
STRUCK
UP THE
CORON-
ATION
WALTZ!
DIMLY
I
HEARD
THE
CHEERS,
THE
SHOUTS
OF
PAUL'S
NAME
AND
MINE!



DID... DID I DO WRONG,
PAUL? DID I EMBARRASS
YOU? YOU'VE AVOIDED
ME FROM THE VERY
FIRST! YOU DON'T
LIKE ME....!

LIKE YOU?
GINNY, I
LOVE YOU!



BUT...
BUT WHY?
I TRIED
SO HARD
TO SHOW
YOU HOW
I FELT....!

I THOUGHT YOU
WERE ONLY BEING
KIND! WHEN I
FOUND OUT YOU
WERE THE MOST
POPULAR GIRL IN
COLLEGE, DATES
EVERY NIGHT, I
WAS AFRAID!



I'D ALMOST GET MY COURAGE UP...
AND THEN YOU'D WIN SOME NEW
HONOR! GINNY, YOU CAN'T CARE
FOR ME WHEN YOU HAVE THE
WHOLE WORLD AT
YOUR FEET!

YOU'VE BEEN
THE WORLD
EVER SINCE
YOU CAME,
PAUL!



... AND I DON'T
WANT YOU AT MY
FEET! I WANT
YOU IN MY ARMS!

GINNY! OH MY DEAR,
DEAR GINNY! WHAT
A FOOL I'VE BEEN!



I'VE ALWAYS HAD TO TAKE
SECONDS, GINNY! MY
BROTHERS WERE ALL OLDER,
HANDSOMER! THEY ALWAYS
GOT EVERYTHING I WANTED!

PAUL, DIDN'T ANYONE
EVER TEACH YOU THAT
LIPS WERE MADE FOR
SOMETHING BESIDES
SILLY BABBLING?

AND
RIGHT
THERE
THE
QUEEN
OF THE
BALL
PUT HER
SEAL
ON THE
KING
OF HER
HEART...
MY
BASHFUL
BOY-
FRIEND
WHO
WAS
BASHFUL
NO
LONGER!



NAVY BLUES

YOU SELDOM SAW JIMMY ELDRIDGE AND VAN DELBERT WHEN THEY WEREN'T TOGETHER, AND WHEN BOTH OF THEM CHOSE ME FOR THEIR "BEST GIRL," THERE WASN'T A HAPPIER WAVE AT MOBERLY NAVAL BASE! WE WERE A CONSTANT THREESOME AND I WAS AS FOND OF JIMMY'S CAREFREE PERSONALITY AS I WAS OF VAN'S SERIOUS, AMBITIOUS OUTLOOK ON LIFE! IT NEVER OCCURED TO ME THAT ONE DAY MY CONFUSED HEART WOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM .. AND THAT MY FIRST CHOICE WOULD BE WRONG!

VAN, PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND! IT'S YOU I LOVE! I CAN EXPLAIN THIS!

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, DOREEN! AND I HOPE YOU'LL BOTH BE VERY HAPPY!



MY DECISION WAS FORCED UPON ME WHEN VAN AND JIMMY MET ME ONE EVENING WITH DISTURBING NEWS!

THERE GOES OUR THREESOME! THOSE NEW ORDERS WE WERE WAITING FOR CAME THROUGH!

I'M SHIPPING OUT, DOREEN! IT WON'T BE MORE THAN A DAY OR SO NOW!

AND I GOT THE BREAK! I'M ASSIGNED TO THIS BASE, TIED DOWN TO A NEAT LITTLE DESK JOB!

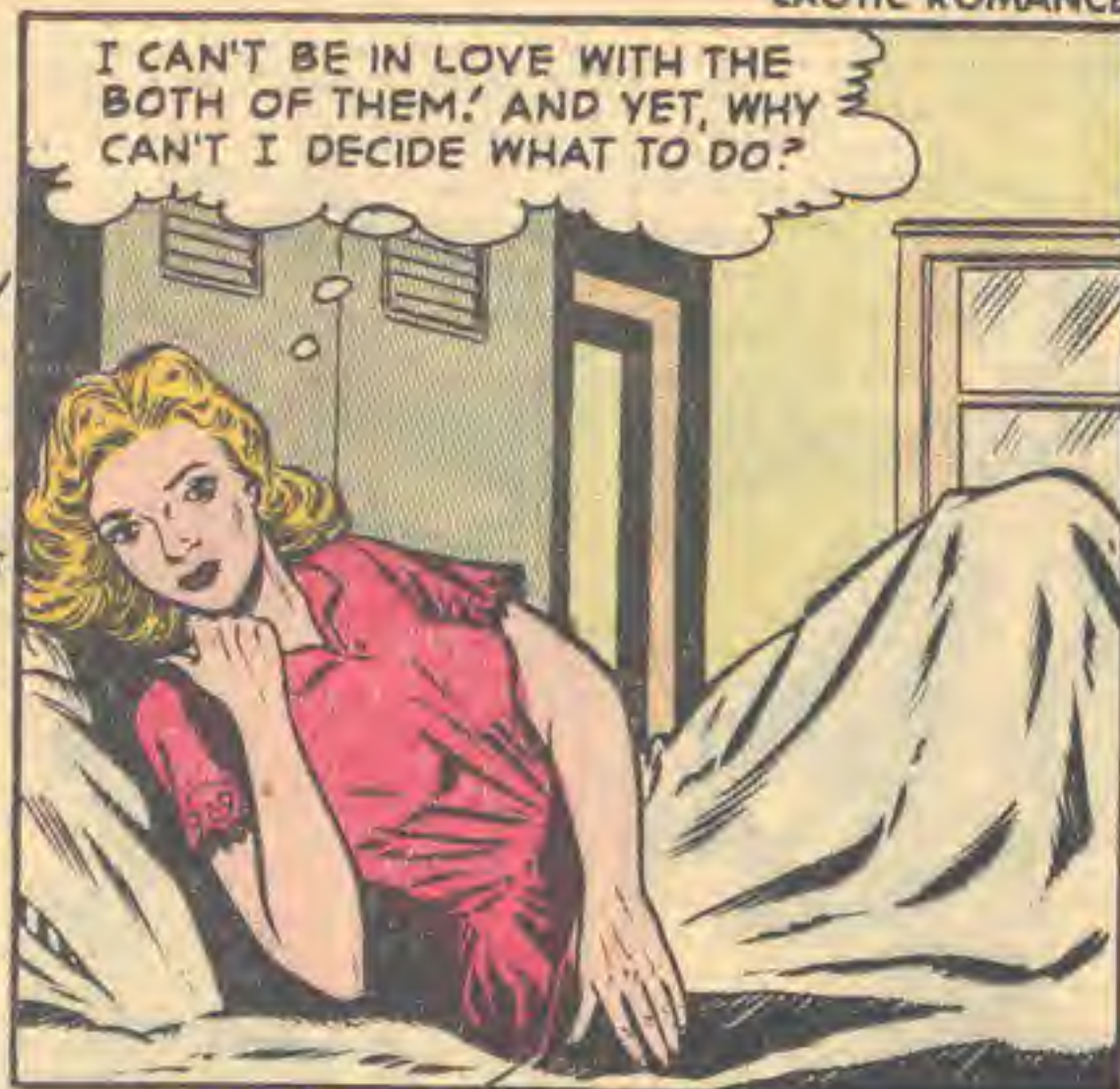
OH, VAN, I... I'M SORRY! I'M GOING TO MISS YOU!

WE'LL HAVE A FAREWELL DINNER IN TOWN TOMORROW NIGHT.. JUST THE THREE OF US!

AND, BEFORE I LEAVE, DOREEN, JIMMY AND I WANT TO KNOW... WHICH OF US IT'S GOING TO BE! I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT WE BOTH LOVE YOU!



I SPENT THAT NIGHT IN CONFUSION AND TORMENT, ANXIOUS TO FIND HAPPINESS WITH THE RIGHT MAN, BUT DREADING TO HURT THE OTHER!



IT WAS A TENDER KISS THAT SEALED OUR FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSED THE DOOR ON JIMMY'S DREAMS! BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE THE BEGINNING OF TRAGEDY IN THREE LIVES!



DON'T MIS-
INTERPRET
THIS VAN!
DOREEN
HAS
SOMETHING
TO...

ER.. I'LL BE RIGHT
BACK! I.. HAVE
TO MAKE A PHONE
CALL BEFORE
WE HAVE DINNER!

THAT'S STRANGE!
HE LOOKED..
SORT OF
STUNNED,
DIDN'T
HE?

HE'LL BE
ALL RIGHT
SOON AS HE
GET'S BACK AND
YOU TELL HIM
HE'S THE LUCKY
GUY!

POOR JIMMY!
I WISH
YOU
DIDN'T
LOVE
ME!

FORGET IT, HONEY!
I THINK I'LL TELL
THE WAITER WE'RE
READY FOR DINNER
NOW! WE'LL HAVE
OUR STEAKS
COOKING WHILE
VAN'S ON THE
PHONE!



JIMMY LEFT
THE PRIVATE
DINING ROOM
ON WHICH HE
AND VAN HAD
SPLURGED
AND I WAIT-
ED FOR HIM
TO RETURN!
BUT WHEN HE
CAME BACK
TO THE
TABLE,
ONE GLANCE
TOLD ME
THAT
SOMETHING
WAS
WRONG!

HE'S GONE, DOREEN!
THE WAITER
SAID HE
LEFT!

BUT HE SAID
HE'D BE RIGHT
BACK! OH, JIMMY..
YOU DON'T SUPPOSE
HE THOUGHT...



THE POOR GUY MUST HAVE
DECIDED THAT THREE'S A
CROWD AND THAT HE WASN'T
WANTED! COME ON, WE'LL
FIND HIM AT THE BASE!

WHY DIDN'T HE
GIVE US A
CHANCE TO EX-
PLAIN? WE'VE
GOT TO FIND HIM!



BUT VAN WAS OFF DUTY AND DIDN'T
RETURN TO THE BASE THAT NIGHT!

I CAN'T GET AWAY IN THE
MORNING! AND HE'S
LIABLE TO SAIL
BEFORE I CAN
TELL HIM THE
TRUTH!

YOU'VE GOT TO FIND
HIM, JIMMY! WE CAN'T
LET VAN LEAVE FEEL-
ING THAT WE'VE LET
HIM DOWN!



AND THE NEXT DAY, IN SPITE OF OUR
FRANTIC EFFORTS...

I'M SORRY, DOREEN!
THE PITTSFIELD SAILED
AT FIVE THIS MORNING!
VAN LEFT WITHOUT A
MESSAGE FOR
EITHER OF US!

OH, JIMMY, HE WAS
SO HURT! ?SOB? I
MAY NEVER SEE HIM
AGAIN AND.. ?SOB?
HE'LL NEVER KNOW
HOW MUCH I LOVE
HIM!



IN THE DISMAL MONTHS AFTER VAN'S DEPARTURE, MY HEARTACHE BECAME ALMOST UNBEARABLE AS LETTER AFTER LETTER WAS RETURNED UNOPENED!



IF ONLY HE'D READ MY LETTERS AND REALIZE THAT I LOVE HIM ... THAT I'M WAITING FOR HIM!

JIMMY'S EFFORTS, TOO WERE IN VAIN ...

HE'S IN KOREA, DOREEN! HE SENT MY LAST LETTER BACK WITH A NOTE WISHING US LUCK AND EXPLAINING THAT HE'S TRYING TO FORGET! THAT'S WHY HE WON'T READ OUR LETTERS!

HE'S ... TRYING TO FORGET! MAYBE BY NOW HE HAS FORGOTTEN!



AND ONE NIGHT!

I'VE TRIED TO BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT, BUT I KNOW IT'S HOPELESS, JIMMY! VAN'S PUT ME OUT OF HIS MIND AND OUT OF HIS HEART!

I'LL NEVER STOP BLAMING MYSELF FOR THAT!



DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, JIMMY! YOU COULDN'T HELP DOING WHAT YOU DID!

KISSING YOU? I FIND IT ROUGH, DOREEN, TO RESIST TAKING YOU IN MY ARMS EVERYTIME WE'RE TOGETHER LIKE THIS!



BUT AS LONG AS YOU BELONG TO VAN...

I DON'T! HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME, JIMMY! AND SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY ALL OF US SHOULD SUFFER AND FEEL SO... .. ALL ALONE!

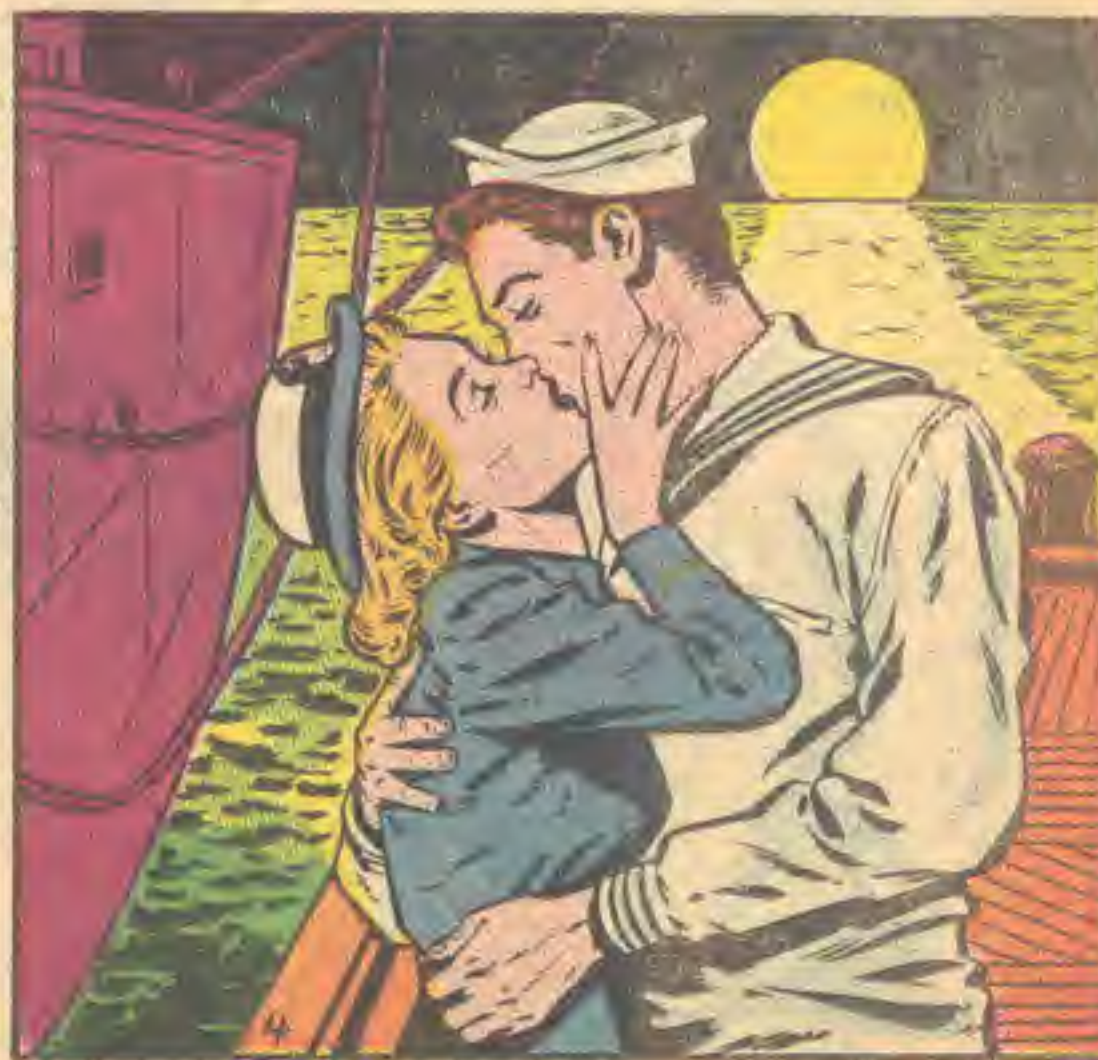


YOU LOVE ME AND.. I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE WORLD OF YOU! MAYBE IT'S HELPLESS AND FOOLISH TO LET VAN STAND BETWEEN US!

IF I COULD BE SURE YOU WEREN'T JUST FEELING SORRY FOR ME! DOREEN.. DOREEN, I'VE LOVED YOU FOR SUCH A LONG TIME!



PERHAPS IT WAS MY LONELINESS OR MY HUNGER TO BE LOVED AND PROTECTED! BUT THAT NIGHT I TOLD MY HEART THAT VAN NO LONGER EXISTED FOR ME .. AND THAT I LOVED JIMMY!



JIMMY ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM JUST TWO NIGHTS LATER, AND I ACCEPTED, CONVINCED THAT MY PLEDGE WOULD ERASE THE MEMORY OF VAN.

I'VE APPLIED FOR A TWO WEEK LEAVE, DARLING! IF YOU CAN GET AWAY, WE'LL BE HONEYMOONING IN A FEW DAYS!

WHY DO I KEEP REMEMBERING VAN'S FACE ... AND THAT TERRIBLE HURT LOOK IN HIS EYES?



TOO LATE I LEARNED THAT MY HEART HAD NOT CHANGED!

SOB! OH, VAN, WHAT HAVE I DONE? SOB! I'LL NEVER BE FREE.. I'LL NEVER STOP LOVING YOU!



BUT I CAN'T GO BACK ON MY WORD! I CAN'T HURT JIMMY THE WAY I HURT YOU, VAN! HE'S NEVER GOING TO KNOW WHAT'S IN MY HEART!



BUT SOMETIMES I WONDERED HOW MUCH JIMMY REALLY KNEW!

YOU'RE A MELANCHOLY NO..NO, BABY, TONIGHT, I'M ALL RIGHT, JIMMY! I WAS JUST... THINKING!



ABOUT ANYBODY I KNOW? HONEY, SOMETHING'S BEEN WRONG! I FEEL IT EVERYTIME I TALK TO YOU, EVERYTIME I HOLD YOU CLOSE!

DON'T SAY THAT, JIMMY! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG! I LOVE YOU.. I HAVEN'T CHANGED!



IF JIMMY SENSED THE TURMOIL IN MY HEART, HE SAID NOTHING MORE ABOUT IT! BUT A FEW DAYS BEFORE WE WERE ABOUT TO BE MARRIED!

YOU AREN'T GOING TO HAVE ONE OF THOSE WONDERFUL WEDDINGS MOST GIRLS DREAM OF, DOREEN, BUT I'LL BET MOST BRIDES DON'T GET WEDDING GIFTS LIKE THIS ONE!

JIMMY, YOU .. YOU DIDN'T GO OUT AND SPEND A LOT OF MONEY FOR ...



THIS DIDN'T COST A PENNY, DARLING, BUT I KNOW YOU'LL CHERISH IT ALL YOUR LIFE! OPEN IT WHEN YOU'RE ALONE TONIGHT!

A WEDDING PRESENT? OPEN IT WHEN I'M ALONE? WHAT IS IT, DEAR?



I HURRIED TO MY BARRACKS AND WITH TREMBLING HANDS I OPENED JIMMY'S GIFT! AND SUDDENLY I KNEW WHY HE HAD WANTED ME TO BE ALONE WHEN I SAW WHAT IT WAS!

MY DEAREST, HOW MUCH UNHAPPINESS I COULD HAVE SAVED ALL OF US IF I HADN'T BEEN SUCH A BLUNDERING FOOL! I REFUSED TO READ LETTER AFTER LETTER, BUT I COULDN'T FORGET YOU OR STOP LOVING YOU!

Jimmy finally wrote to one of my ship-mates and told me the whole story! Now that I know you love me, I can only pray that you will wait until I come back. Someday together we may find a way to repeat the best friend in the world for his sacrifice!
your devoted Van

IT'S A LETTER! A LETTER FROM VAN!

SOB! OH, VAN.. DARLING, DARLING, OF COURSE I'LL WAIT FOR YOU! SOB! NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES, I'LL BE WAITING!

AND WHEN I TRIED TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO JIMMY THE NEXT DAY...

DON'T THANK ME, DOREEN! I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO HOLD YOU TO A PROMISE THAT'S SO HARD TO KEEP!

BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS! OH, JIMMY, I HOPE YOU FIND SOMEONE WORTHY OF YOU.. SOMEONE WHO'LL LOVE YOU THE WAY I LOVE VAN!

BUT UNTIL YOU DO...

AH-AH! THAT'S WHAT SPOILED EVERYTHING LAST TIME! SAVE YOUR KISSES FOR THAT WONDERFUL GUY YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY!

JIMMY MANAGED A SMILE BEFORE HE LEFT ME.. AND FROM FAR OUT BEYOND THE HORIZON, I FELT THAT VAN WAS SMILING BACK AT THE FINEST FRIEND A MAN COULD HAVE.. AND THE GIRL WHO WOULD BE WAITING WHEN HIS SHIP RETURNED!



No Officer For Me



IT HAD NEVER KNOWN ANY HOME BUT AN ARMY POST! MY DAD WAS A COLONEL, MY BROTHERS WERE MAJORS, AND IT WAS ASSUMED THAT SOMEDAY I WOULD CARRY ON WITH THE FAMILY TRADITION BY MARRYING AN OFFICER! AND THEN I GAVE MY LOVE TO PRIVATE DANNY WELLS AND FOUND MYSELF CAUGHT IN A HEART-BREAKING TRAP!

IF MY FOLKS HADN'T SENT ME AWAY TO AN EXCLUSIVE GIRLS' SCHOOL, I WOULDN'T HAVE MET DANNY!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A DATE FOR THE SPRING DANCE, NINA! CAMP EDSON IS JUST A FEW MILES AWAY AND I KNOW PLENTY OF SOLDIERS WHO'D JUMP AT THE CHANCE!

IF THE GOVERNMENT HADN'T RE-ACTIVATED THAT CAMP LAST MONTH, WE'D BE OUT OF LUCK! FRANKLY, THOUGH, I'D LIKE TO DATE A MAN IN CIVVIES FOR A CHANGE!

I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND, NINA, BUT ALL THE FELLOWS I KNOW AT CAMP EDSON ARE JUST PLAIN BUCK PRIVATES! THAT'S NOT EXACTLY YOUR SPEED!

DON'T BE SILLY, JOAN! I'M NOT A SNOB! BESIDES, I'M OUT ON MY OWN NOW, NOT AT DAD'S POST!

AND THAT SATURDAY NIGHT!

DANNY WELLS IS A DREAMBOAT, NINA! JUST DON'T TELL HIM YOU COME FROM A LONG LINE OF COLONELS! HE'S PREJUDICED AGAINST OFFICERS!

I WON'T TELL HIM ANYTHING! AFTER ALL, I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN AFTER TONIGHT!





THIS IS A LOT BETTER THAN THOSE DANCES AT CAMP! I GET TIRED OF LOOKING AT SO MANY UNIFORMS!

YOU HAVE GIRLS AT THOSE CAMP DANCES, DON'T YOU?



YES, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY LIKE YOU, NINA! THEY JUST DON'T COME THAT PRETTY! AND TO THINK I NEARLY CAUGHT K.P. AND DIDN'T GET HERE!

GOSH, I'M GLAD YOU GOT OUT OF THAT, DANNY! I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD MUCH FUN TONIGHT.. IF.. I HADN'T MET YOU!



THAT BLASTED LIEUTENANT NEARLY FOULED UP MY PLANS! GOLLY, EVERYTIME I SEE BRASS I GET AN URGE TO START SWINGING! OFFICERS... YAH!

MAYBE JOAN WAS RIGHT! HE WOULDN'T BE SO FRIENDLY TOWARD ME IF HE KNEW MY FAMILY IS FULL OF "BRASS"! AND I LIKE HIM TOO MUCH TO SPOIL THE ILLUSION!

THERE WAS SOMETHING SO APPEALING ABOUT DANNY THAT WHEN HE ASKED TO SEE ME AGAIN, MY HEART SKIPPED A FEW BEATS! BEFORE LONG, WE WERE TOGETHER AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, AND I WAS TOO MUCH IN LOVE TO DISCUSS MY FAMILY!



YOU KNOW, WE HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO DISCUSS YOUR FOLKS! I THINK YOU SAID YOUR FATHER IS RETIRED, RIGHT? ANYWAY, I'LL MEET THEM WHEN YOU GRADUATE NEXT MONTH!

GOSH, I..I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT! MOM AND DAD ARE COMING DOWN FOR GRADUATION WEEK!



I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TELLING THEM ABOUT MY FUTURE PLANS! YOU SEE, MY PLANS HAPPEN TO INCLUDE THEIR BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER!

YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO TALK TO MY FOLKS ABOUT ME? I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DANNY!



I'M ASKING YOU TO MARRY ME AS SOON AS I GET OUT OF SERVICE! PLEASE SAY YOU WILL, DARLING! PLEASE!

OH, YES, DANNY..YES! I'VE NEVER LOVED ANYONE THE WAY I LOVE YOU!







WHO WAS THAT, NINA? A GOOD FRIEND OF YOURS?

ER.. NO, DAD! JUST.. SOMEONE I KNOW

I KNOW DANNY MUST HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSED, BUT WHY DID HE RUN OUT ON ME? NOW I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE HIM TO THE FOLKS!



I TRIED TO REACH DANNY BY PHONE THAT EVENING, BUT IT WAS PLAIN THAT HE WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!

IF ONLY HE'D LET ME EXPLAIN! OH, DANNY, WHY WASN'T I HONEST WITH YOU? WHY WASN'T I HONEST WITH MOM AND DAD?



HAVE YOU REACHED DANNY, YET, NINA? REALLY YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW ANXIOUS I AM TO MEET HIM!

NO,..I..I CAN'T SEEM TO GET HIM, MOTHER! COME TO THINK OF IT, HE DID SAY SOMETHING ABOUT... HAVING TO GO OUT OF TOWN!



JUST WHEN WE WERE COMING? HOW DREADFUL!

DUTY, MY DEAR! AFTER ALL, HE'S AN OFFICER! IF THERE'S AN ASSIGNMENT FOR HIM, HE CAN'T VERY WELL BEG OFF BECAUSE WE HAPPEN TO BE VISITING IN TOWN!



SAY, NINA, CAPTAIN REEVES IS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE! I CAN CALL HIM AT CAMP EDSON AND HAVE HIM CHECK TO SEE IF DANNY'S AROUND! I'LL..

WILL YOU STOP MEDDLING IN MY BUSINESS? I TOLD YOU DANNY COULDN'T BE REACHED! NOW FORGET ABOUT IT!



I HATED MYSELF A MOMENT LATER, BUT I COULDN'T HELP FLARING UP AT MY BROTHER! AND I COULDN'T STOP THE ACHE IN MY HEART! AN ACHE THAT WOULDN'T LEAVE ME UNTIL I WAS IN DANNY'S ARMS AGAIN!

WHAT'S WRONG, NINA? EARL WAS ONLY TRYING TO BE HELPFUL! TELL ME WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU AND MAYBE I CAN HELP!

IT'S NOTHING, MOTHER! MAYBE I.. I'M JUST UPSET BY ALL THE EXCITEMENT!



OF COURSE, DEAR! BUT RIGHT AFTER GRADUATION WE'LL FLY HOME AND YOU'LL GET A NICE LONG REST!

IF I GO AWAY WITHOUT MAKING DANNY UNDERSTAND, I... I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!



GRADUATION DAY WAS A HEART-BREAKING ONE FOR ME!

DANNY WAS GOING TO BE HERE TODAY! BUT EVEN IF I WON HIM BACK NOW, DAD AND EARL WOULD PROBABLY MAKE HIM MISERABLE! IT'S ALL SO MUDDLED UP... AND HOPELESS



BUT I COULDN'T GO AWAY WITHOUT SEEING DANNY! I JUST COULDN'T!

HERE WE ARE, GIRLS! WE'VE GOT RESERVATIONS FOR TEN O'CLOCK TONIGHT!

THEN I.. I'D HAVE TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO A FEW OF MY FRIENDS, WOULDN'T I? WOULD YOU MIND, MOTHER?



IF YOU AREN'T GONE TOO LONG, NINA! BUT FRANKLY, I'M DISAPPOINTED! SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU AND DANNY WELLS HAVE QUARRELED AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO MEET HIM AT ALL!

LET'S NOT PRY INTO NINA'S AFFAIRS, MOTHER! COME ON, SIS, I'LL WALK YOU OVER TO THE CAMPUS!



I COULDN'T TELL EARL THAT I WAS PLANNING TO TAKE THE NEXT BUS FOR CAMP EDSON, SO I LET HIM WALK ME TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS! I WASTED A PRECIOUS HOUR THERE, AFRAID TO GO OUT UNTIL I WAS SURE EARL WAS GONE!

AH, IT'S SO SWEET OF YOU TO COME BACK TO SAY GOOD-BYE AGAIN, DEAR CHILD! I DO HOPE YOU'LL THINK OF THESE CLASSROOMS AS YOUR SECOND HOME AND COME BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN!

YES, MISS PRITCHETT!

I DON'T DARE LET EARL SEE ME GET ON THAT CAMP BUS! BUT IF I DON'T GET GOING SOON, I'LL BE LATE FOR OUR PLANE AND I WON'T GET TO SEE DANNY!



BUT MY TRIP TO DANNY'S CAMP WAS FUTILE!

I'M TELLIN' YA! I KNOW DANNY PERSONAL AND HE AIN'T HERE! I SAW HIM LEAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO MYSELF!

AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S GONE! WELL... THANKS, ANYWAY!



IT WAS NEARLY NINE-THIRTY WHEN I GOT BACK TO THE HOTEL! AND TO MY SURPRISE...

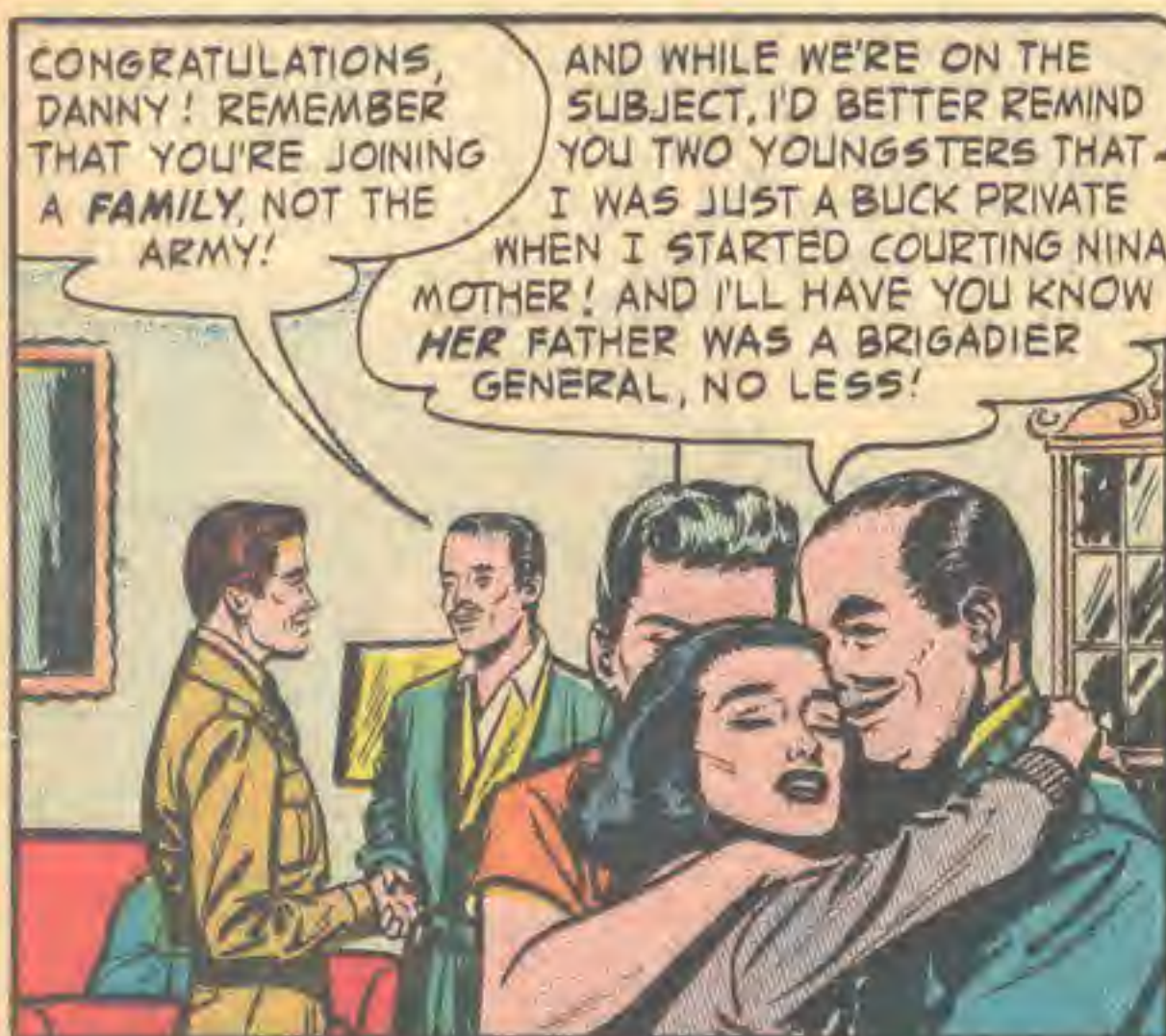
I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE, DAD, BUT... GOSH, YOU AREN'T DRESSED YET AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE AIRPORT!

WE CAN'T SKIP OFF WHEN WE HAVE A VISITOR, CAN WE? AND I HAVE AN IDEA THE VISITOR WILL BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF EARL AND I DON'T SPORT OUR UNIFORMS!



HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME! HE KNEW I'D BE LEAVING RIGHT AFTER GRADUATION AND HE DIDN'T CARE! OH, DANNY, DANNY, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN UP THIS EASILY IF YOU REALLY LOVED ME!





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TOWN..... STATE.....

Crash-Bound for LOVE

The only unhappy thought I had about entering Holtsvye College the following week was the fact that our neighbor across the street was an upper classman there and Harvey and I had been sworn enemies since childhood. He had always been the pull-the-pigtail type of boy; I can even recall the day he handed me a beautiful chocolate ice cream cone and as I lowered my head to taste the delicious confection, he squashed it into my face. I hadn't spoken to him since, and that was well over five years ago. Also, I made mother promise she wouldn't tell Harvey Smith's mother that I was going to be at Holtsvye.

On this particular day, I was backing dad's car out of our driveway into the very narrow street we lived on, when I heard a resounding smash, and felt the accompanying jolt. I had collided with the smooth red convertible parked at the curb in front of Harvey's house. Father came dashing out, Harvey and his folks came tearing from their house. But it was the fellow that beat them all to the scene who attracted my attention. He was the tall, tan, terrific, and irate owner of the red convertible. "Why don't you stick to your kiddie car, little one?" he snapped, and before I could comment, he added, "Who's your insurance man?" I replied quickly that Earl White was our insurance man and would have continued talking for months if I could have caught his undivided attention, but he was too taken up with the damage to his beautiful car. Father took over and I was immediately brushed to the sidelines where Harvey smiled wickedly, "You're still quite a little cut-up, Sally. This time it looks expensive." I snubbed him royally, then thinking better of it and looking once more at the handsome car owner, I dropped my five and a half year silence and said, "I feel terrible about it, Harvey. Do you think your friend will forgive me?" He looked a little shocked, like the sound of my voice was a new sound, then he replied, "Joe could forgive anything but wrecking his car. Too bad, I can see by the light in your eyes

you've joined his mob of female admirers." "You're just as mean as ever, Harvey Smith," I stormed and I swept, head high, up the walk to my house, only stumbling once.

Father was furious at me for not looking where I was going and mumbled constantly about women drivers. But Earl White, the insurance man, assured us we were covered and said he'd have the adjuster look at Mr. Joe Patton's car the next morning. I asked if I could accompany the adjuster, purely out of interest in the case, and Earl said he thought it could be arranged.

At the Patton house in the next town, Mr. Joe Patton was not yet awake when we arrived so his nice moher showed us the battered car. Joe came running out a few minutes later, hastily thrown together and groaned when he saw me. I knew it was no use. This perfectly wonderful boy and I could never be friends. I left him talking to the insurance adjuster and returned to the car.

The excitement of getting off to school was considerably dimmed by my mooning about the unforgettable Joe Patton. But somehow we got launched, and the folks drove me up to the college. I met my roommate, Claire, a real peach of a girl, and the folks left, somewhat tearfully. Claire and I got unpacked and all settled with the office and after supper we strolled down to look over the local sweet shop. We were seated together in a booth, downing mammoth root beer floats when I heard Harvey Smith's detestable voice behind me, "Well, if it isn't Sally, the car wrecker extraordinaire!" I turned to chew him out, but stopped short as my eyes met those of Joe Patton, standing beside Harvey. He smiled and said, "May we join you, Sally? I'd like to apologize and . . ." I hastily nodded agreement, introduced them to Claire who immediately was all eyes for Harvey, so that left Joe and me to talk things over. He apologized for getting so mad about the car and asked me for a date.

The upshot of all this is that I am now wearing Joe's fraternity pin and everything is rosy.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, U. S. Code, Section 233) OF EXOTIC ROMANCES, published Monthly at Sparta, Illinois, for October 1, 1955.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Everett M. Arnold, 3235 Gordon Drive, Naples, Florida; Editor, Alfred Grenet, 347 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.; Managing editor, None; Business manager, Richard E. Arnold, 347 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) Comic Magazines, 578 Summer Street, Stamford, Conn.; Everett M. Arnold, 3235 Gordon Drive, Naples, Florida; Claire C. Arnold, 3235 Gordon Drive, Naples, Florida.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security

holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

(Signed) EVERETT M. ARNOLD, Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of September, 1955. (Signed) LOUIS J. KURIANSKY, Notary Public; (My commission expires April 1, 1959)

Only Make Believe

LOVE HAD PASSED ME BY, YET I WASN'T UNHAPPY ABOUT IT! I HAD MY CAREER AND A BURNING AMBITION TO STRETCH A CHAIN OF MY SMART DRESS SHOPS CLEAR ACROSS THE UNITED STATES! TO DO THAT, I NEEDED MONEY, AND THERE WAS ONE WAY I COULD GET IT! I WENT TO A TALENT AGENCY, AND THERE I HIRED A FIANCE, AND TOGETHER WE FAKED OUR LOVE!



HIS SURPRISE WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, SO I EXPLAINED QUICKLY...

I'VE A GRANDFATHER WHO LIVES IN THE NEXT STATE! I'M HIS ONLY LIVING RELATIVE! HE'S SICK, AND DOCTORS THINK IT WILL DO HIM GOOD FOR HIM TO SEE ME FOR A WEEK! THE HITCH IS, THAT GRANDFATHER HATES CAREER WOMEN!



HIS OWN WIFE DIVORCED HIM FOR HER CAREER, AND HE'S ALWAYS BEEN BITTER ABOUT IT! I DON'T WANT GRAMPS TO KNOW I'M A CAREER WOMAN! IT WOULD MAKE HIM FEEL BETTER TO THINK I'M ABOUT TO BE A HAPPY HOUSEWIFE!

I UNDERSTAND!



WILL YOU TAKE THE JOB? IT WILL ONLY BE FOR A WEEK!

I WISH IT WERE FOR MUCH LONGER! YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A VERY PRETTY FIANCEE!



YOU'D BETTER UNDERSTAND RIGHT AWAY -- THIS IS STRICTLY BUSINESS!

UH-HUH! BY THE WAY, BOSS! YOU REALLY SHOULD WEAR YOUR HAIR DIFFERENTLY! YOUR FIANCEE DOESN'T LIKE THE HAIR-DO YOU'VE GOT NOW!



WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY HAIR-DO? IT'S SIMPLE, NOT DELIBERATELY OBVIOUS LIKE SOME MAN-HUNGRY GIRLS I KNOW! HMM! I WONDER!



THE NEXT DAY, MY HIRED FIANCEE HAD A SMUG LOOK IN HIS EYES AS I DROVE MY CAR TO GRANDFATHER'S ESTATE...

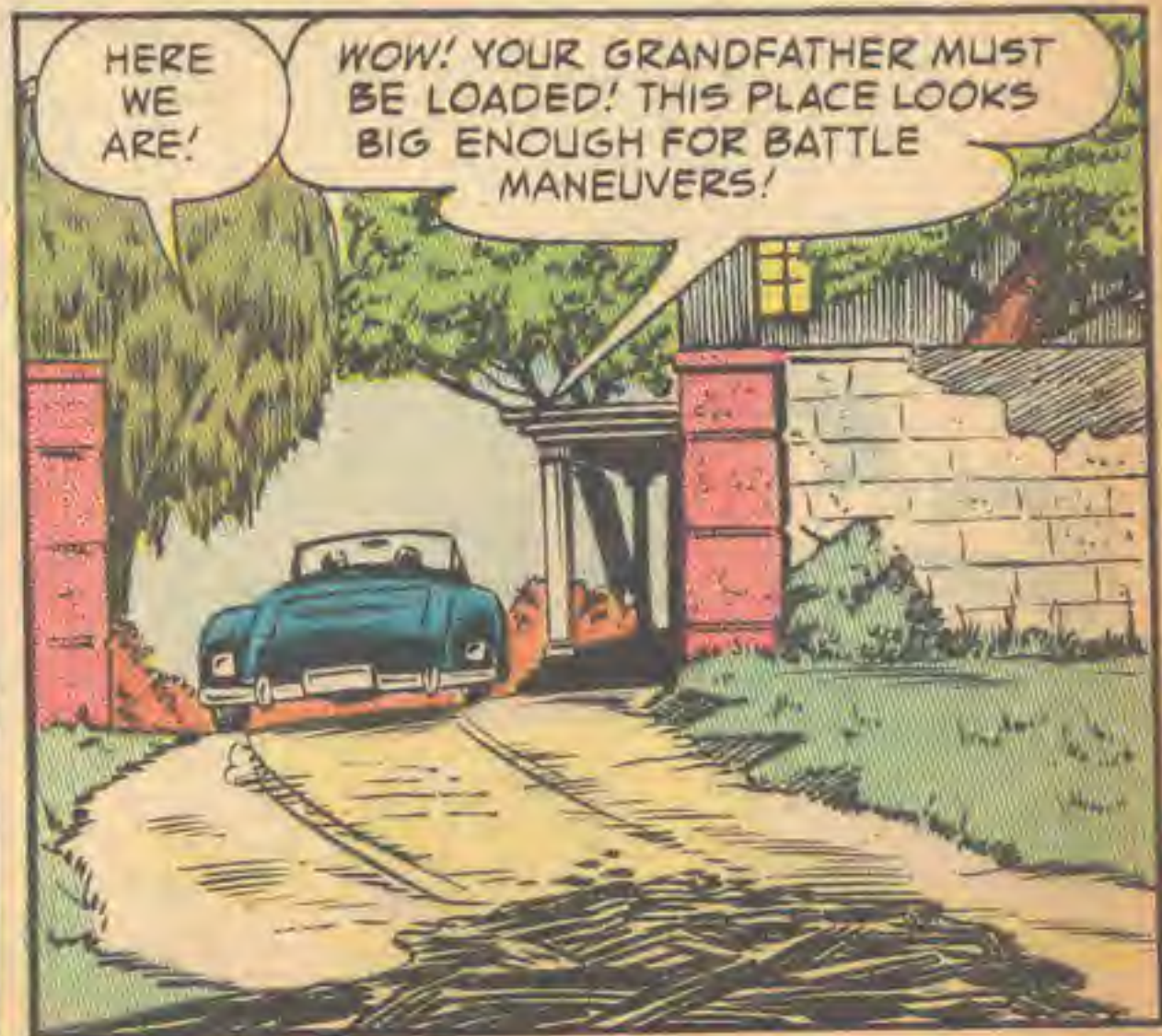
I LIKE YOUR HAIR BETTER THIS WAY! DID YOU DO IT BECAUSE OF ME?

YOU'VE THE TYPICAL MALE CONCEIT! I CHANGED MY HAIR-DO BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS TOO SEVERE AND NOT THE WAY A TYPICAL HOUSEWIFE WOULD WEAR IT!



HERE WE ARE!

WOW! YOUR GRANDFATHER MUST BE LOADED! THIS PLACE LOOKS BIG ENOUGH FOR BATTLE MANEUVERS!





GRAMPS! GRAMPS, YOU OLD DARLING, HOW ARE YOU! MUCH BETTER NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, CHILD! BY JIMINY, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!



GRAMPS, THIS IS KIRK... M-MY FIANCEE!
HOWDY, SON! GLAD TO SEE AMY GOT HERSELF A MAN! Y'KNOW, I WAS ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT HER GETTIN' HITCHED! ALWAYS THOUGHT HER TO BE STAND-OFFISH!



MY LITTLE GIRL STAND-OFFISH! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT, GRAMPS! THE VERY FIRST NIGHT WE MET SHE JUST MELTED IN MY ARMS-- LIKE THIS!

BEFORE I KNEW IT, KIRK HAD PULLED ME TO HIM AND HIS LIPS WERE ON MINE! FOR AN INSTANT MY HEART RACED IN WILD ECSTASY AS WE CLUNG TOGETHER!



HEE-HEE! BY JIMINY!



JUST LIKE OUR FIRST KISS, REMEMBER, DARLING?

OH, YOU GRINNING, SMUG MALE! AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT SMILE WHILE GRAMPS IS WATCHING! OH YOU--YOU!!

THE DAY PASSED PLEASANTLY ENOUGH AFTER THAT, AND WHEN NIGHT CAME KIRK LEFT...



GOOD NIGHT, AMY! I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW IN TIME FOR BREAKFAST!

GOOD NIGHT, KIRK!



AMY, I KNOW YOU HATE PLAYING THE PART OF A FIANCEE, BUT YOU'RE DOING IT TO MAKE A GREAT OLD GUY HAPPY! I LIKE YOU FOR THAT, AMY!

OH, I--I'M GLAD, KIRK! G-GOOD NIGHT!

I COULDN'T EXPLAIN MY EMOTIONS AS I LEANED AGAINST THE DOOR! I WANTED TO DISMISS KIRK FROM MY MIND, YET MY HEART WOULDN'T LET ME!

AMY HALE, GET HOLD OF YOURSELF! YOU'VE BEEN KISSED BEFORE! FORGET KIRK'S KISS! DO YOU WANT TO LET YOURSELF BE TRAPPED BY LOVE? NOT YOU -- YOU'RE TOO SMART! YOU'VE A CAREER TO THINK OF!



AT BREAKFAST, SOMETHING HAPPENED... SOMETHING I DREADED!

YESSIREE, I MADE OUT A WILL LEAVIN' EVERYTHING TO AMY, PROVIDIN' SHE GOT MARRIED! IF SHE'D TURNED OUT TO BE ONE O' THEM CAREER GALS, I'D HAVE TO CHANGE MY WILL ...



--AN' LEAVE EVERYTHING TO CHARITY! 'COURSE THAT'LL NEVER HAPPEN NOW THAT AMY'S GOT ENGAGED AND IS SETTLING DOWN TO BEIN' A GOOD WIFE! WELL, SEE YOU YOUNGSTERS LATER!



SO THAT'S IT! AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING ALL THIS JUST TO MAKE AN OLD MAN HAPPY! YOU HIRED ME SO YOU COULD GET YOUR MANICURED FINGERS ON HIS MONEY!

KIRK! PLEASE.. I... I...



I MET MONEY-HUNGRY WOMEN IN MY TIME, BUT, HONEY YOU MAKE THEM LOOK LIKE GIRL SCOUTS!

YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT! YOU'RE FIRED!



FIRED? ME? OKAY, BUT REMEMBER, THE MINUTE I WALK OUT, YOU'RE OUT OF HIS WILL! ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO GO--NOW?



DON'T WORRY, I'LL GO ON PLAYING THE PERFECT FIANCEE, BUT NOT FOR YOU -- FOR THAT OLD MAN! BECAUSE IT WOULD BREAK HIS HEART IF HE FOUND OUT WHAT HIS GRANDDAUGHTER WAS REALLY LIKE!



KIRK KEPT HIS WORD! HE PLAYED THE PART OF MY LOVING FIANCE SO WELL GRAMPS ALMOST LOOKED ENVIOUS...

YES, GRAMPS, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE BEING IN LOVE! WE COULDN'T BE HAPPIER!

BY JIMINY, LOOKIN' AT YOU TWO LOVE-BIRDS MAKES ME WISH I WAS FORTY YEARS YOUNGER! GUESS I'D UP AND MARRY MY PRETTY NURSE! HEE! HEE!



BUT WHEN GRAMPS WASN'T WITH US, KIRK TREATED ME WITH UTTER CONTEMPT!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT AND BREATHE SOME FRESH AIR! THIS ROOM SMELLS OF MONEY!



HE'S PLAYING TENNIS WITH THAT NURSE AGAIN! OH WHY SHOULD I CARE! I'LL BE GETTING THE MONEY I NEED TO FINANCE THE CHAIN OF DRESS SHOPS I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF!



WHO AM I KIDDING? I DO CARE! I'M JEALOUS OF HER! OH, HOW I WANT KIRK TO LIKE ME! I--I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM!



I LOVE HIM BUT HE ONLY HAS CONTEMPT FOR ME! SOB! WHAT CAN I DO? OH, WHAT WOULD ANY GIRL DO? SOB!



THEN, THE FOLLOWING MORNING, SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT WAS TO CHANGE MY ENTIRE LIFE!

YOUR GRANDFATHER HAS JUST HAD A RELAPSE! YOU'D BETTER STAY WITH HIM! I'M GOING FOR THE DOCTOR!



OH, HE LOOKS SO STILL! GRAMPS, MY DARLING, DARLING, GRAMPS!



SUDDENLY, IT WAS AS IF A DAM HAD BURST IN MY HEART! IT TOOK THIS, AND THE REJECTION OF KIRK TO WAKE ME UP TO THE BITTER TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!

SOB! OH, GRAMPS, DON'T DIE! YOU MUSTN'T DIE! GRAMPS! GRAMPS! SOB!

I--I GUESS YOU REALLY DO LOVE HIM, AMY!



KIRK, I'M SO ASHAMED OF MYSELF! IF GRAMPS PULLS THROUGH, I'LL TELL HIM YOU EARN ENOUGH MONEY TO SUPPORT US IN STYLE-- I'LL TELL HIM TO CHANGE HIS WILL AND LEAVE HIS FORTUNE TO CHARITY!



THAT-- THAT'S WONDERFUL, AMY! NOW YOU MAKE ME FEEL THAT I WANT TO BE YOUR HUSBAND IN REAL LIFE!

I-I WISH THAT, TOO!



HEE! HEE! BY JIMINY! I KNEW EVERYTHING WOULD TURN OUT RIGHT, AFTER ALL!

GRAMPS!

WHY, YOU CUNNING OLD DEVIL-- YOU NEVER REALLY HAD A RELAPSE AT ALL! YOU WERE PLAYING POSSUM!



YEP! OVERHEARD YOU TWO T'OTHER DAY, TALKIN' ABOUT HOW YOU WAS PLAY-ACTIN' AS AN ENGAGED DUO! BUT I FIGURED AMY HAD GOOD STUFF IN HER, SO NURSIE AN' ME DID SOME PLAY-ACTIN', TOO -- AND IT WORKED!



NURSE, LOOKS LIKE YOU BETTER SHOOT OFF AND GET US A PREACHER!

WELL, AMY, IT SEEMS OUR LITTLE PLAY TURNED OUT TO BE A SMASH HIT! IT WILL PROBABLY RUN FOR YEARS!

FOR LIFE, DARLING, FOR LIFE!



NURSE! NURSE! FOR GOSH SAKES, GET SOME SPEED ON! YOU BETTER GET THAT PREACHER HERE IN A HURRY! HEE-HEE!



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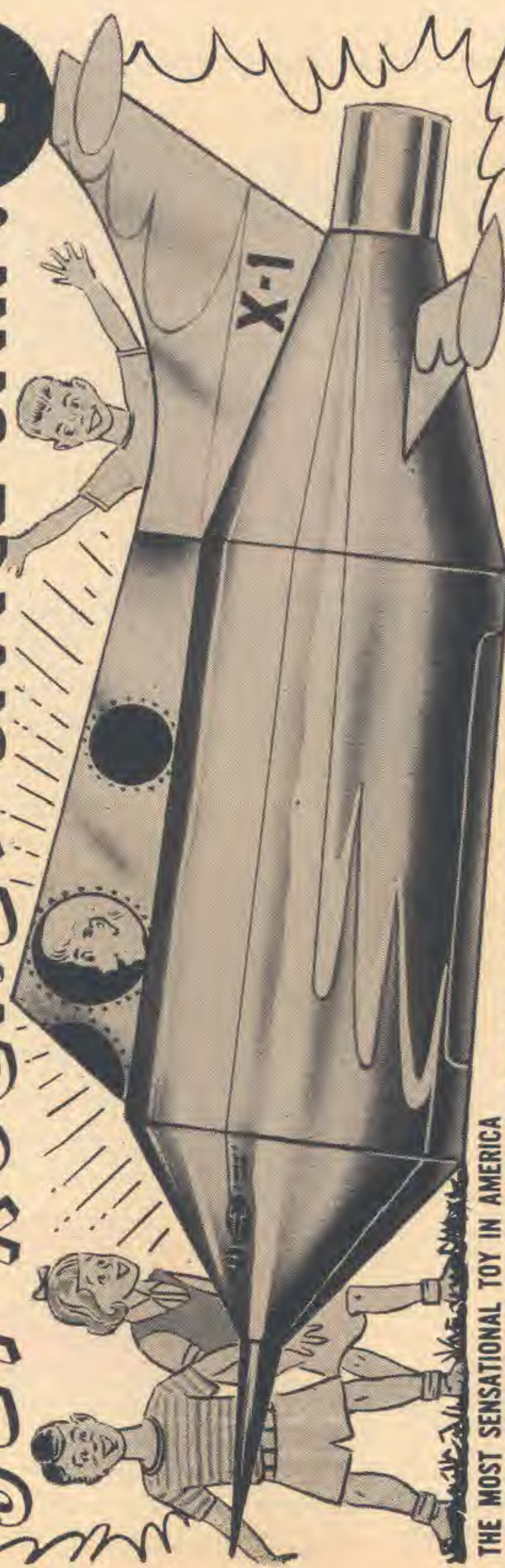
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